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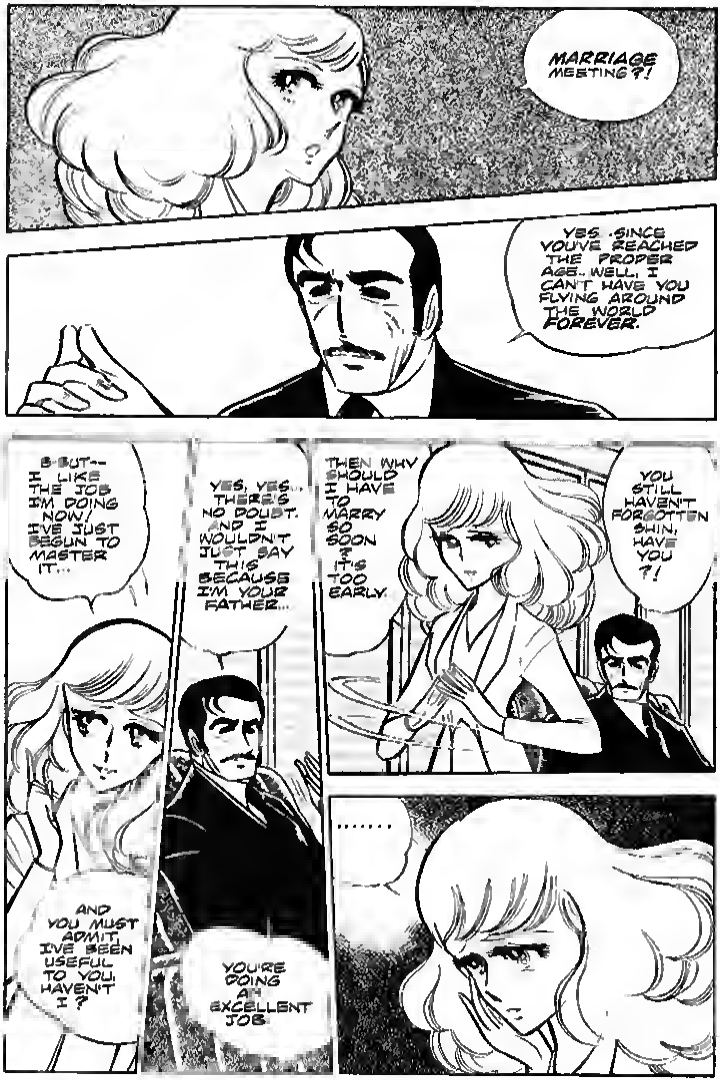
AREA 88
by KAORU SHINTANI
17
BIWEEKLY
Parallel Lives
On Opposite Ends
Of the Earth—
Will Shin and Ryoko
Ever Meet Again?
VIZ COMICS

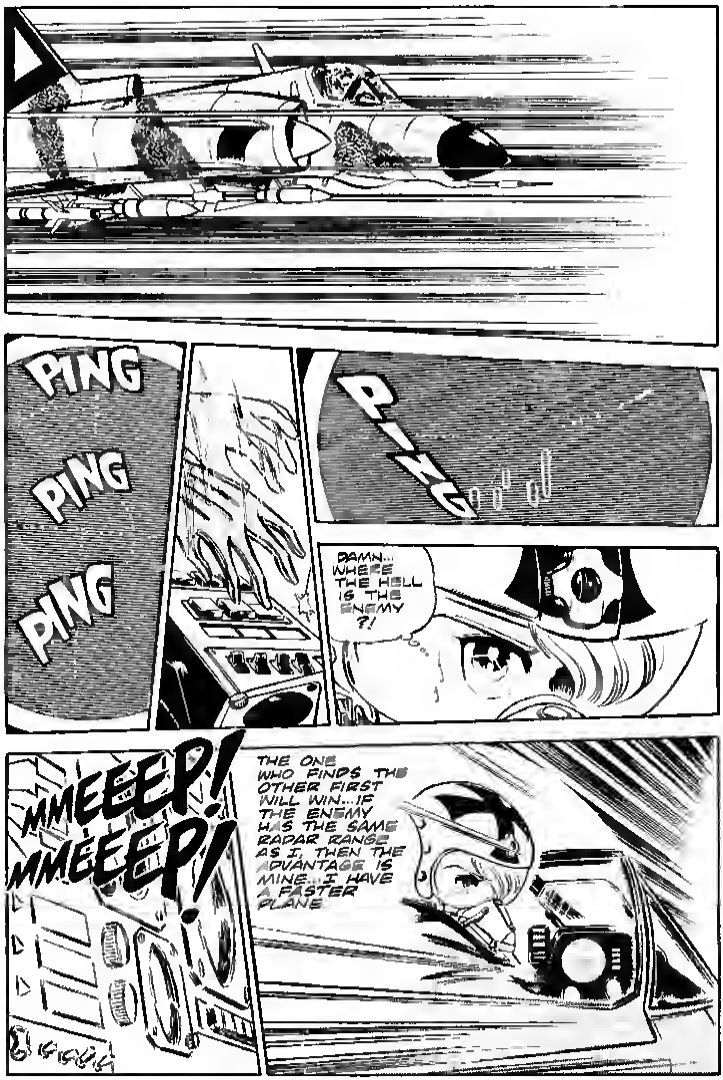
MISSION 17:
In the
DISTANCE
BETWEEN

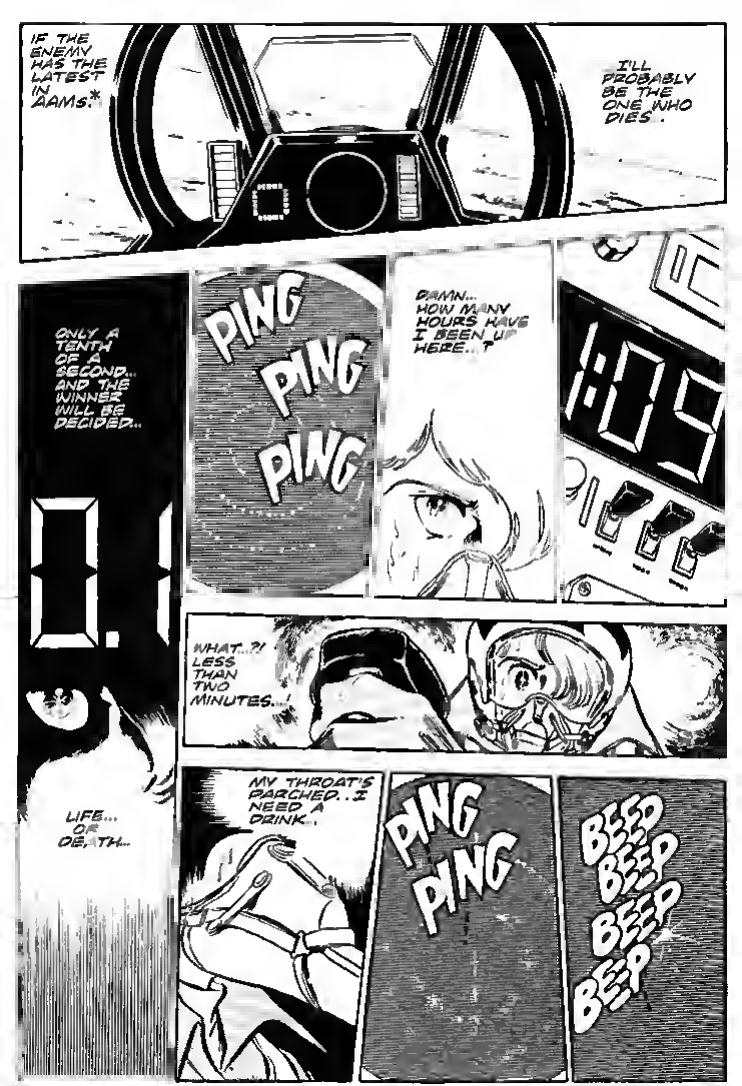
TOKYO--
HEADQUARTERS
OF YAMATO
AIRLINES.
OH.. WELCOME BACK, RYOKO! I HEARD YOU HAD A DANGEROUS FLIGHT.
WELL, I'M HOME NOW.
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT ?
YOU CALLED ME BACK SO SUDDENLY, I THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED.
NO-- EVERYTHING'S FINE.
I'VE ARRANGED A MARRIAGE MEETING FOR YOU. *

* SEE PAGE 30


MARRIAGE MEETING?!
YES. SINCE YOU'VE REACHED THE PROPER AGE.. WELL, I CAN'T HAVE YOU FLYING AROUND THE WORLD FOREVER.
B-BUT-- I LIKE THE JOB I'M DOING NOW! I'VE JUST BEGUN TO MASTER IT...
YES, YES... THERE'S NO DOUBT. AND I WOULDN'T JUST SAY THIS BECAUSS I'M YOUR FATHER...
THEN WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO MARRY SO SOON ? IT'S TOO EARLY.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN SHIN, HAVE YOU ?!
AND YOU MUST ADMIT, I'VE BEEN USEFUL TO YOU, HAVEN'T I?
YOU'RE DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB.
.....

SHAAOOOOM!

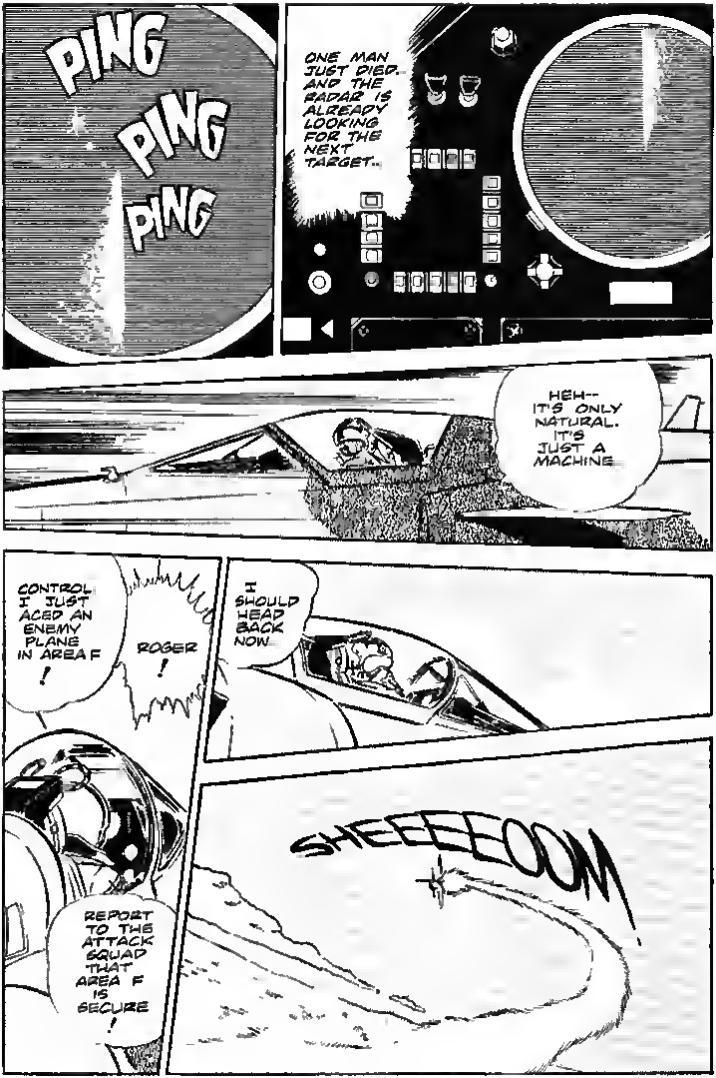

PING
PING
PING
DAMN... WHERE THE HELL IS THE ENEMY ?!
MMEEP! MMEEP!
THE ONE WHO FINDS THE OTHER FIRST WILL WIN... IF THE ENEMY HAS THE SAME RADAR RANGE AS I, THEN THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE... I HAVE A FASTER PLANE

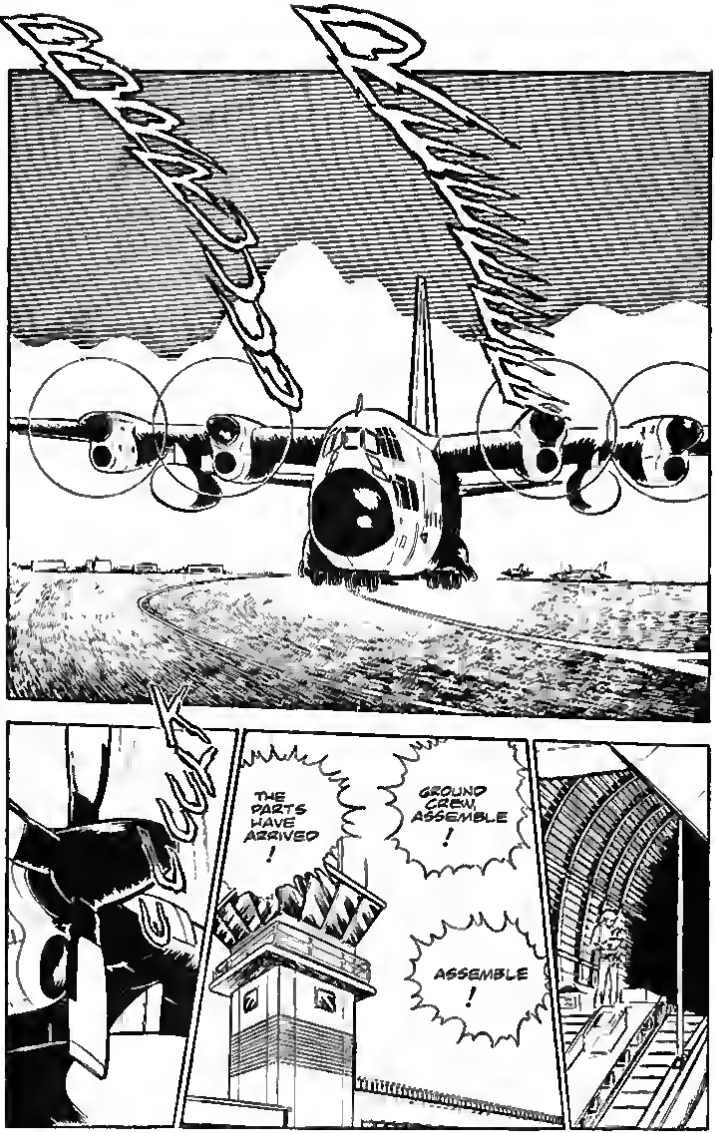

IF THE ENEMY HAS THE LATEST IN AAMS.*
I'LL PROBABLY BE THE ONE WHO DIES.
ONLY A TENTH OF A SECOND... AND THE WINNER WILL BE DECIDED...
0.1
LIFE... OR DE, TH...
PING PING PING
DAMN... HOW MANY HOURS HAVE I BEEN UP HERE..?
:05
WHAT..?! LESS THAN TWO MINUTES..!
MY THROAT'S PARCHED..I NEED A DRINK..
PING PING
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

*AAM-AIR TO AIR MISSILE

FINALLY ! I FOUND ONE !
FASHOOM

AAAAAA!!
TWO SECONDS..
THREE..
FOUR..
FIVE SECONDS..
WHAT HAPPENED..?! THEY SHOULD HAVE HIT THEIR TARGETS BY NOW...
EIGHT SECONDS.. NINE.. WERE THEY OFF THE MARK..?
BEEEP
PING
PING
PING
IT'S OVER...
PING
PING

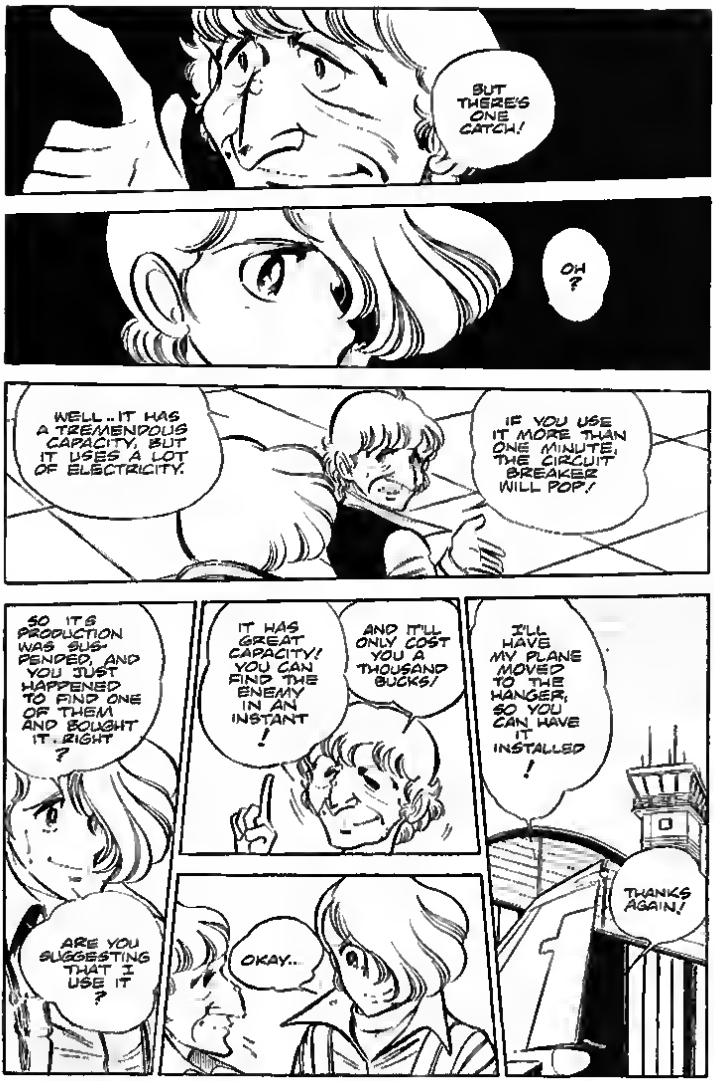

PING
PING
PING
ONE MAN JUST DIED. AND THE RADAR IS ALREADY LOOKING FOR THE NEXT TARGET..
HEH-- IT'S ONLY NATURAL. IT'S JUST A MACHINE
CONTROL I JUST ACED AN ENEMY PLANE IN AREA F !
ROGER !
I SHOULD HEAD BACK NOW..
SHEEEEOOM
REPORT TO THE ATTACK SQUAD THAT AREA F IS SECURE !

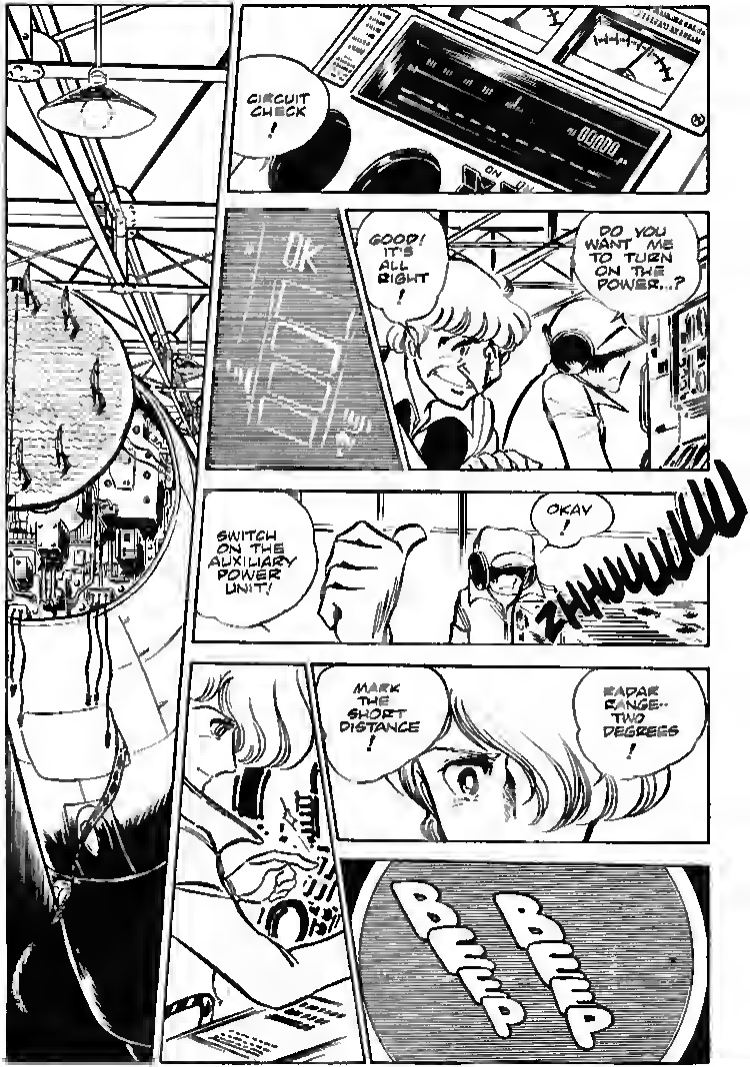

BRRRRRRRRRR
THE PARTS HAVE ARRIVED !
GROUND CREW, ASSEMBLE !
ASSEMBLE !

YO-HO!
SHAAOOM
WWWWWW
I SEE THOSE DEVILS ARE AS CHEERFUL AS EVER
aahh.. I FEEL RELIEVED WHEN I SMELL THIS PLACE
HI, McCOY! WELCOME BACK!
SO, CAMPBELL- I SEE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
CLACK
THERE'S TOO MUCH FINE DUST IN THE DESERT. IT'S ALWAYS GETTING INTO THE JOINTS
DID YOU GET THAT MACHINE OIL IN SWITZERLAND, LIKE I ASKED?
YEAH.. OF COURSE. I BROUGHT TEN DOZEN CANS, SO IT SHOULD LAST AT LEAST SIX MONTHS.
THANKS!

DON'T YOU HAVE TO CHANGE THE BALL BEARINGS SOON ?
MAYBE.
BUT I THINK THEY'LL LAST A LITTLE LONGER. SO ANYWAY, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD BRING THAT OIL TO MY ROOM ?
SURE THING, LAD.
KA-CHACK KA-CHACK
IRON ARM CAMPBELL... WHAT A TOUGH CHARACTER...
AND A FINE PILOT AS WELL.
WELCOME HOME, OLD MAN !
OH.. SHIN! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN ?!
I'M ALL RIGHT. SOMEHOW.
I HAVE PRESENTS FOR YOU !
PREGENTS ?!
HERE THEY ARE !
SHSK SHHST
?!

I FOUND THEM AT A BAZAAR IN ITALY!
INSTANT NOODLES FROM JAPAN!
SHOULD MAKE YOU HOMESICK, EH?
.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER..? YOU DON'T SEEM TOO HAPPY
N-NO... NOT AT ALL... UH, HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, LAD!
OUCH!
I WANT YOU TO BUY SOMETHING ELSE... SOME RADAR PARTS!
I DON'T MIND BUYING THEM, BUT CAN THEY BE USED IN MY KEIR?
PROBABLY I'VE GOT A RANGE BOOSTER MADE FOR THE FRENCH MIRAGE FIGHTERS...
IF WE CAN PUT IT IN, YOU'LL HAVE TWICE THE RANGE YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW!

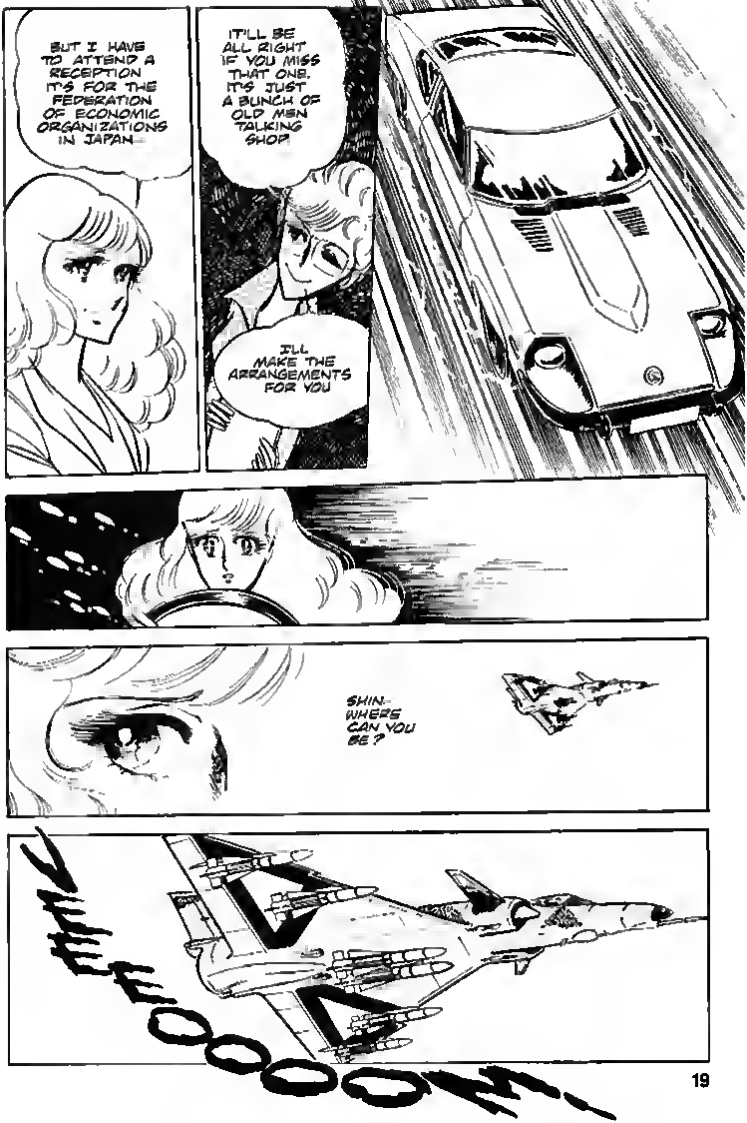

BUT THERE'S ONE CATCH!
OH?
WELL.. IT HAS A TREMENDOUS CAPACITY, BUT IT USES A LOT OF ELECTRICITY.
IF YOU USE IT MORE THAN ONE MINUTE, THE CIRCUIT BREAKER WILL POP!
SO IT'S PRODUCTION WAS SUSPENDED, AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO FIND ONE OF THEM AND BOUGHT IT..RIGHT?
IT HAS GREAT CAPACITY! YOU CAN FIND THE ENEMY IN AN INSTANT!
AND IT'LL ONLY COST YOU A THOUSAND BUCKS!
I'LL HAVE MY PLANE MOVED TO THE HANGER, SO YOU CAN HAVE IT INSTALLED!
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT I USE IT?
OKAY..
THANKS AGAIN!

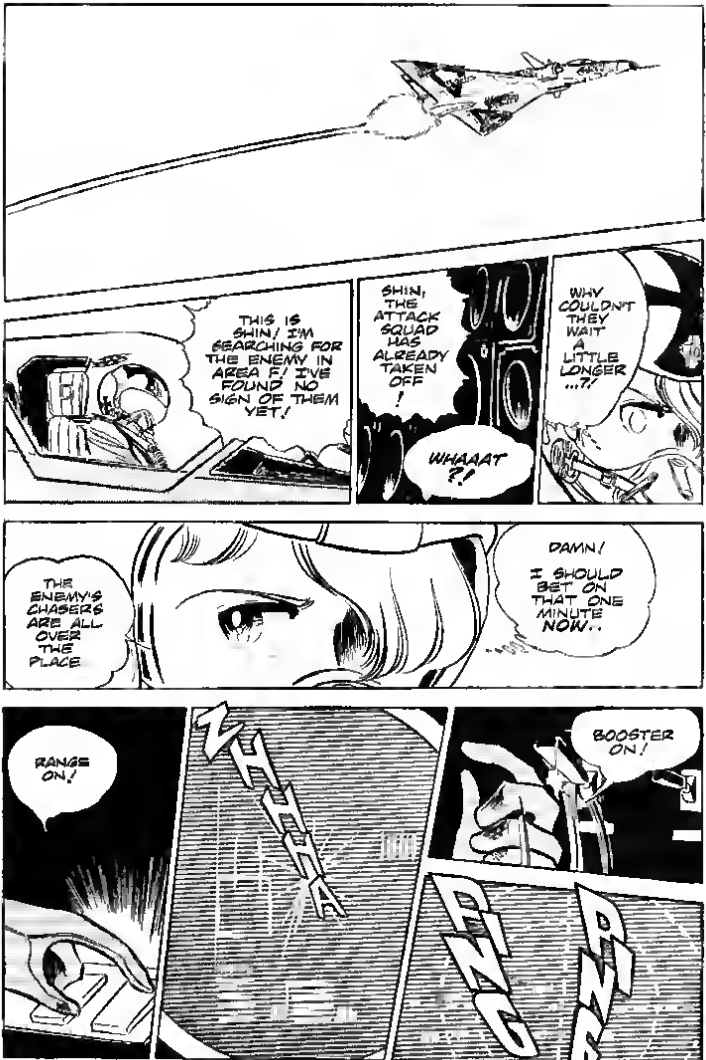

CIRCUIT CHECK !
ON
OK
GOOD! IT'S ALL RIGHT !
DO YOU WANT ME TO TURN ON THE POWER...?
SWITCH ON THE AUXIWARY POWER UNIT!
OKAY !
ZHWWWW
MARK THE SHORT DISTANCE !
RADAR RANGE-- TWO DEGREES !
BEEP
BEEP

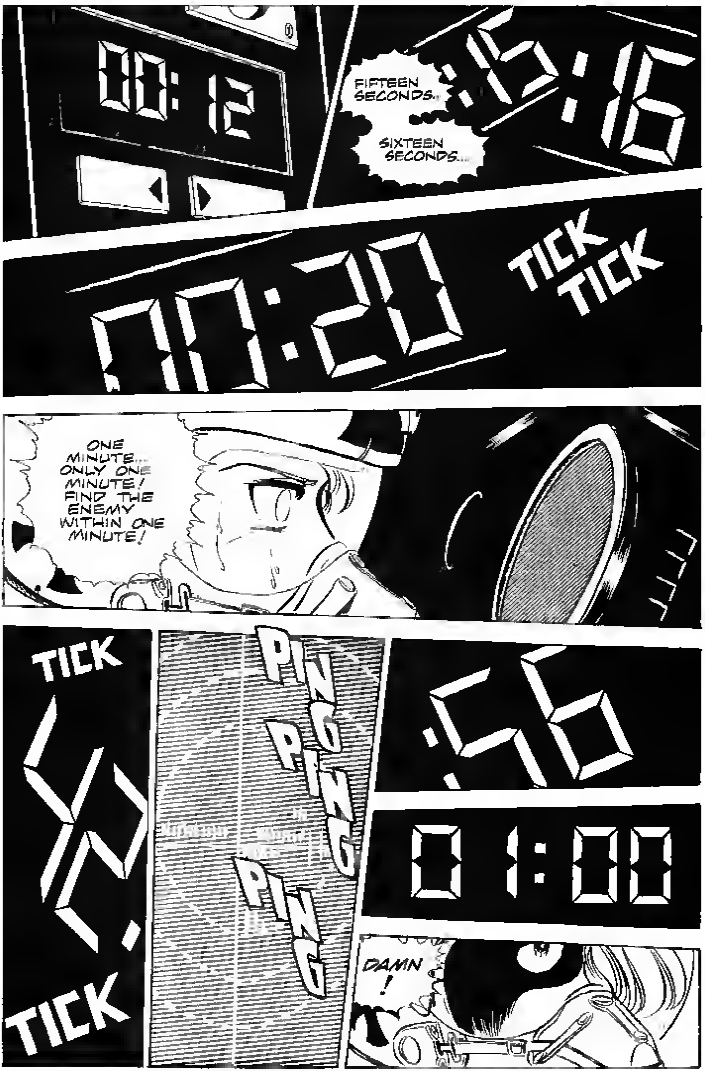
SOMEBODY'S WALKING ON THE EDGE OF THE RUNWAY.
THERE'S A METALLIC RESPONSE!
OH. THAT MUST BE CAMPBELL!
THE RADAR'S RESPONDING TO HIS METAL ARM AND LEG.
HMMM--IM IMPRESSED.
OH--ONE MINUTE'S UP!
SWITCH OFF THE APU!
THE PROBLEM IS, I CAN ONLY USE IT FOR ONE MINUTE.
THAT'S WHY IT'S AS DAMNED CHEAP AS A THOUSAND BUCKS, LADDIE...
WELL... ALL RIGHT, THEN.

TOKYO.
YOU LOOK TIRED.
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME REFUSING THIS MARRIAGE MEETING MY FATHER'S ARRANGED.
HE CARES ABOUT YOU.. YOU KNOW THAT
MISS YASUDA..
YES ?
CAN A WOMAN LIVE A LIFE WITH ONLY MEMORIES TO HOLD ?
!
I GUESS THAT DEPENDS ON THE KIND OF MEMORIES THEY ARE..
THAT'S TRUE

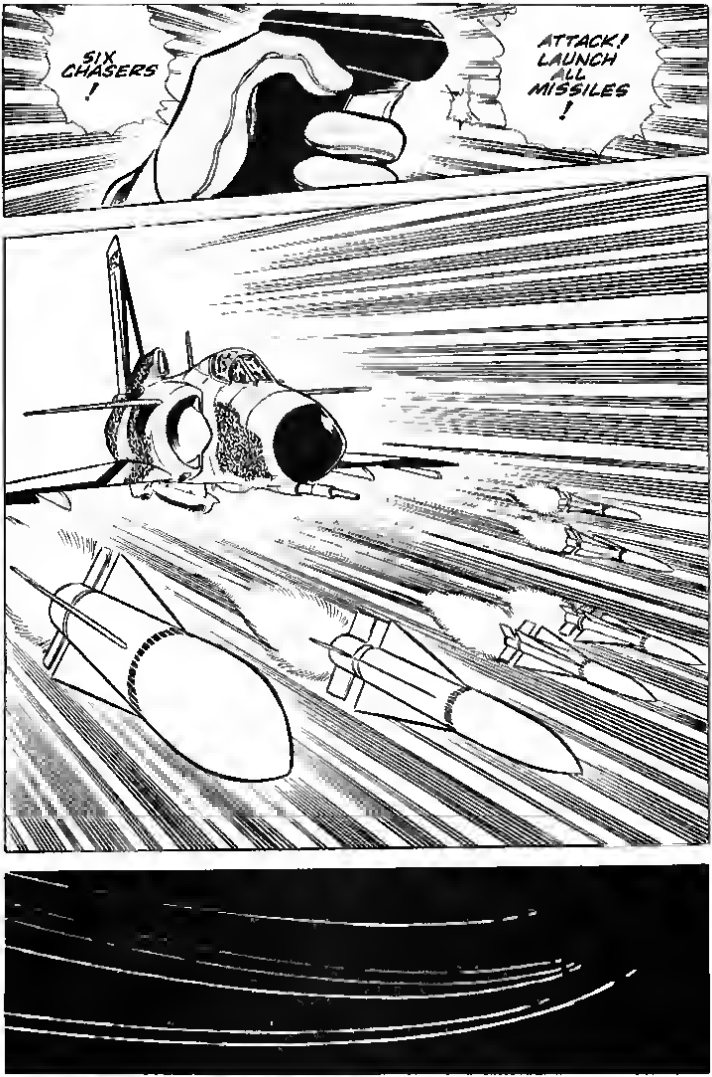
A MEMORY TENDS TO BE IDEALIZED AS TIME GOES BY..
YOU CAN LIVE YOUR LIFE CLINGING TO THE PAST BUT..
..BUT, WHAT ?
YOU MIGHT MISS THE HAPPINESS THAT LIES RIGHT BEFORE YOU.
.....
A WOMAN'S LOVE WAXES AND WANES...IT MIGHT WAVER UNTIL SHE FINDS A MAN UPON WHOM SHE CAN LEAN..
BUT SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT THIS IS THE BEAUTY OF A WOMAN..
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO..I WILL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR SIDE. IF YOU BELIEVE IN SHIN, BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR HEART..
THANK YOU.. TAEKO...
NOW IT'S USELESS TO WORRY ABOUT IT JUST GO HOME AND GET SOME REST.

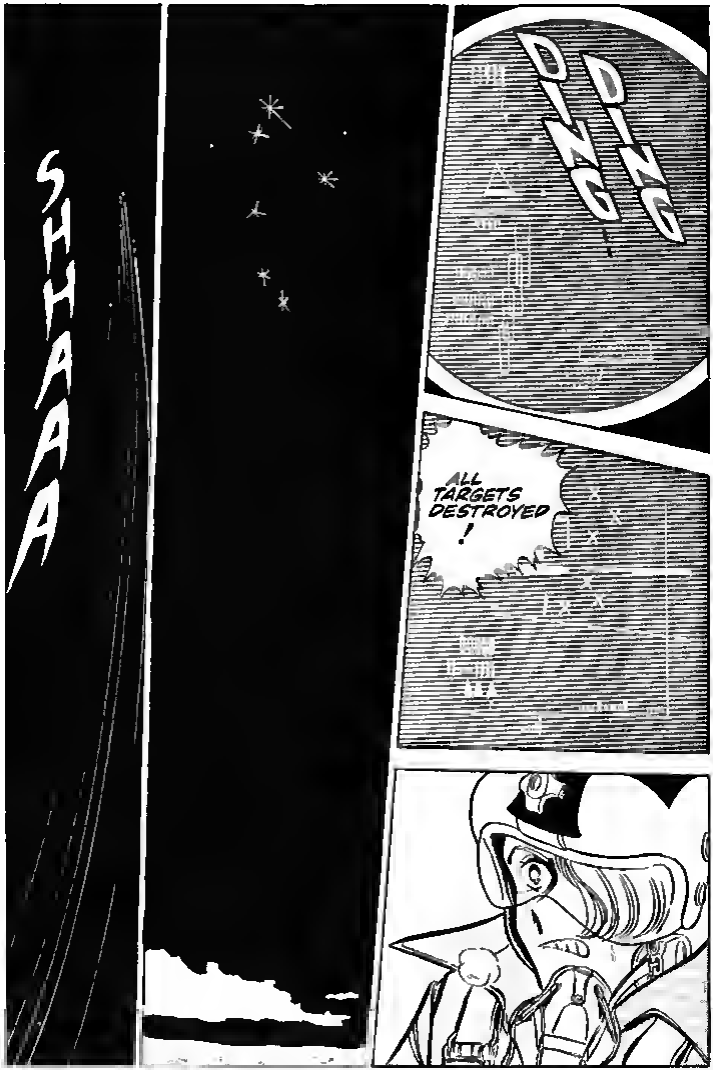

BUT I HAVE TO ATTEND A RECEPTION IT'S FOR THE FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS IN JAPAN
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF YOU MISS THAT ONE. IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF OLD MEN TALKING SHOP
I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU
SHIN- WHERE CAN YOU BE ?
WOOOOOM!

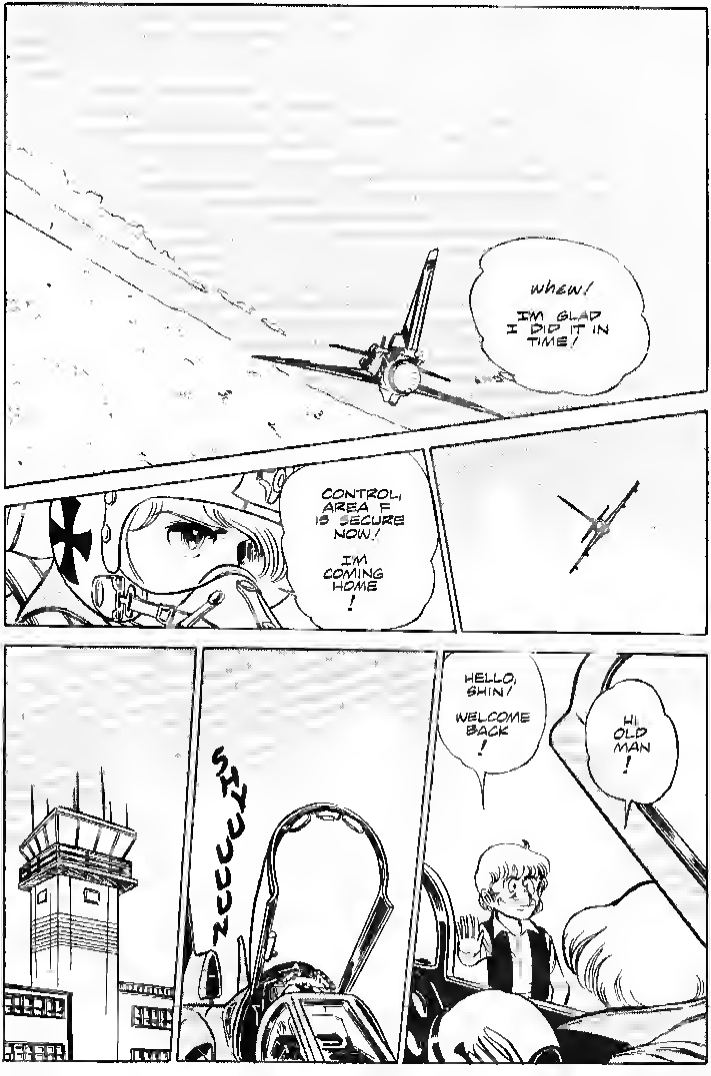

THIS IS SHIN! I'M SEARCHING FOR THE ENEMY IN AREA F! I'VE FOUND NO SIGN OF THEM YET!
SHIN, THE ATTACK SQUAD HAS ALREADY TAKEN OFF!
WHAAAT?!
WHY COULDN'T THEY WAIT A LITTLE LONGER ...?!
THE ENEMY'S CHASERS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE
DAMN! I SHOULD BET ON THAT ONE MINUTE NOW..
RANGE ON!
BOOSTER ON!
PING
PING

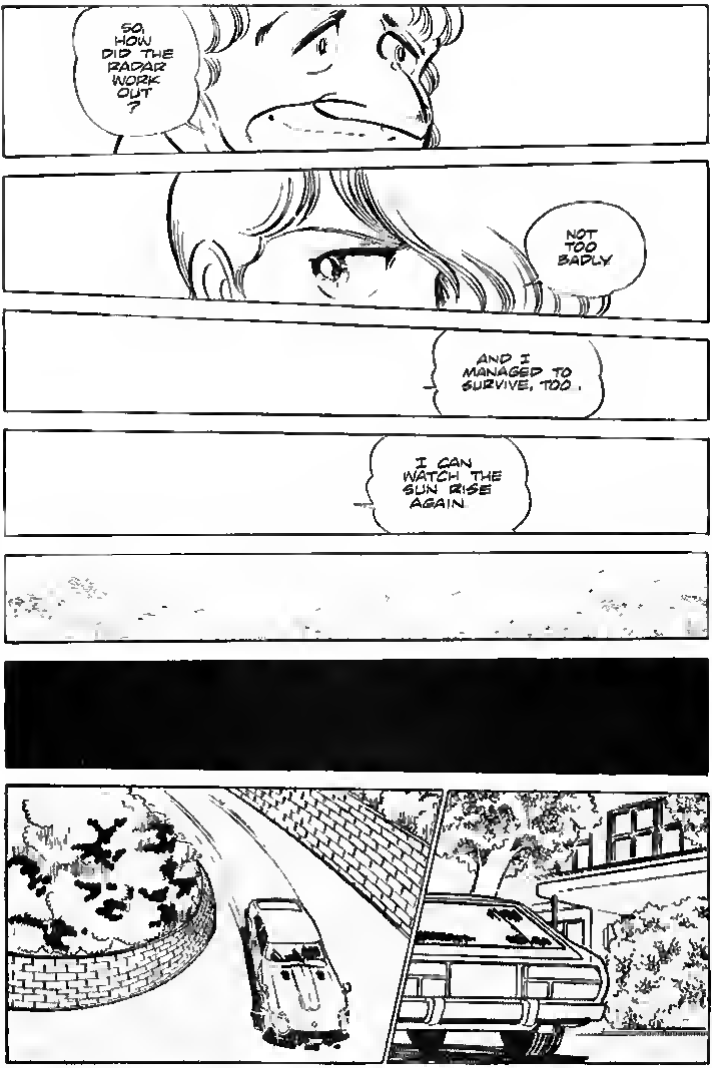

00:12
FIFTEEN SECONDS...
:15
SIXTEEN SECONDS...
:16
00:20
TICK
TICK
ONE MINUTE... ONLY ONE MINUTE! FIND THE ENEMY WITHIN ONE MINUTE!
TICK
:55
TICK
PING
PING
PING
:56
01:00
DAMN!

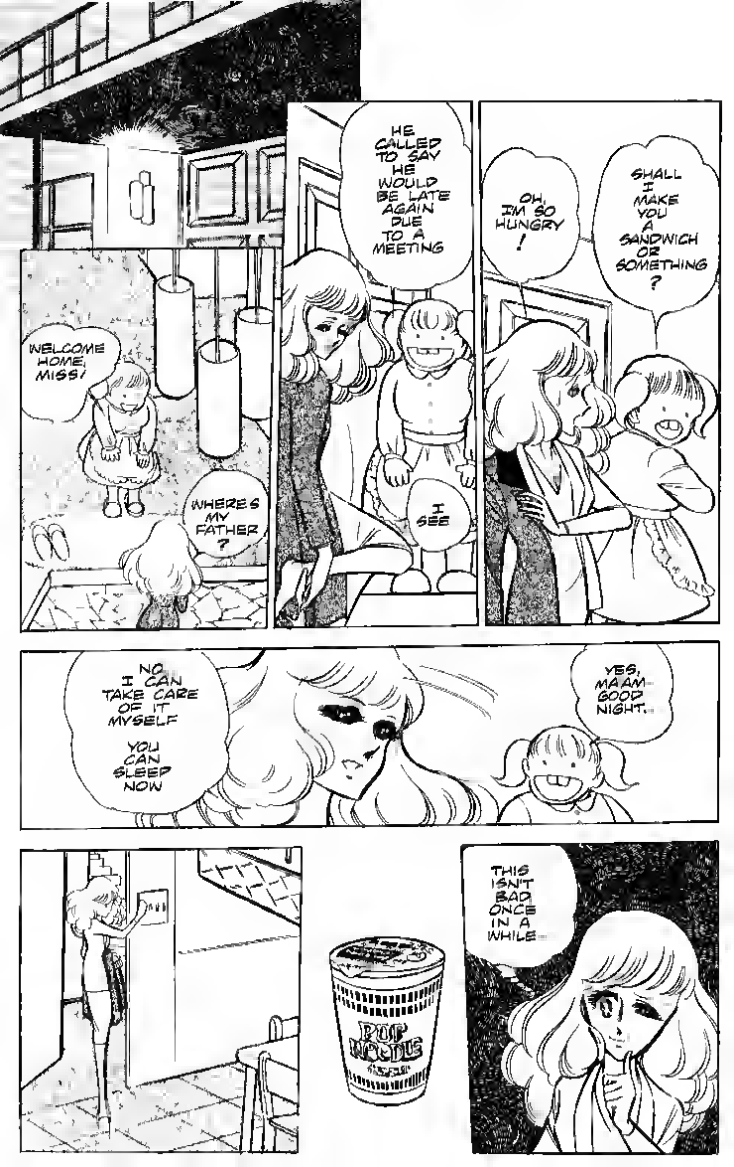
BRRRING
BRRRING
BRRRING
PING PING
IT DIDN'T WORK... IF I WAIT ANY LONGER, THE WHOLE RADAR WILL BE SHOT...
BLEEEEEP
I FOUND THEM!
BLEEEEEP
SIGHT ON!
AUTOMATIC SHOOTING!
DING DING DING


SIX CHASERS !
ATTACK! LAUNCH ALL MISSILES !


SHHAAA
PIIC
PIIC
ALL TARGETS DESTROYED !


whew!
IM GLAD I DID IT IN TIME!
CONTROL, AREA F IS SECURE NOW!
IM COMING HOME!
HELLO, SHIN! WELCOME BACK!
HI OLD MAN!
NUUUUN


SO, HOW DID THE RADAR WORK OUT ?
NOT TOO BADLY
AND I MANAGED TO SURVIVE, TOO .
I CAN WATCH THE SUN RISE AGAIN


WELCOME HOME, MISS!
WHERE'S MY FATHER?
I SEE
HE CALLED TO SAY HE WOULD BE LATE AGAIN DUE TO A MEETING
OH, IM SO HUNGRY!
SHALL I MAKE YOU A SANDWICH OR SOMETHING?
NO, I CAN TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF. YOU CAN SLEEP NOW
YES, MAAM. GOOD NIGHT.
POP NOODLE
THIS ISN'T BAD ONCE IN A WHILE

IT'LL BE READY IN THREE MINUTES..
.....
.....
TO BE CONTINUED..